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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/678,714	10/03/2003	Constantin Mihai	MSFT-2558/305312.1	9867
41505 7590 02/27/2007 WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2929 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891			EXAMINER PHAM, KHANH B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2166	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/678,714	MIHAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Khanh B. Pham	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7,8,12,13,15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7,8,12,13,15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 26, 2006 has been entered. Claims 2, 6, and 14 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5, 12 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 12, 13, 15, and 16 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 7, 15 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 7 and 15 depend upon canceled claims 6 and 14. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 12, 13, 15, 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kan et al. (US 7,171,415 B2), hereinafter "**Kan**".

As per claims 1, 5, 12, 13, Kan teaches a method and system for a search framework to provide search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers (See Fig. 1), said method comprising :

- "registering a first search method for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers; registering a second search method for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers" at Col. 7 lines 40-57;
- "registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider; register a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider" at Col. 8 lines 50-67;
- "detecting a request to the web server for a search on a selected search provider from among said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method" at Col. 8 lines 10-25;
- "providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method" at Col. 8 lines 10-25;
- "responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search on the selected search provider utilizing said corresponding search method" at Col. 8 lines 10-25;

- “receiving a search result from the selected search provider in a response format corresponding to said selected search provider” at Col. 8 lines 20-30, and
- “providing said received search result to the web server in a ubiquitous format” at Col. 13 line 45 to Col. 14 line 7.

As per claim 3, teaches the method of claim 1, wherein “said method comprises reading search provider data regarding said first search provider and said second search provider from a configuration file” at Col. 9 lines 45-55.

As per claim 4, teaches the method of claim 3, wherein “said method is implemented in conjunction with a web server, and where said configuration file is a web.config file” at Col. 9 lines 45-55 and Col. 11 lines 28-35.

As per claims 7, 15, teaches the method and system of claims 5, 13, wherein “said step of providing said first and said second search results comprises: returning said first and said second search results in a unified format” at Col. 13 line 45 to Col. 14 line 7.

As per claims 8, 16, teaches the method and system of claims 7, 15, where “said step of detecting a request for a search on said first search provider and second search provider comprises receiving response format data, and where said step of

Art Unit: 2166

providing said first and said second search results comprises: returning said first and second search results according to said response format data" at Col. 13 line 45 to Col. 14 line 7.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 12-13 and 15-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

If a reference indicated as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose telephone number is (571) 272-3574 for faster service.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-4116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2166

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Khanh B. Pham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2166

February 22, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kpham', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.